

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TEACHER WITH SUBJECT-MATTER SPECIALIZATION: Language Arts/Literacy GRADES 5 - 8

Important Note: Please be advised that reading through all the *Introductory Information and General Requirements* found on the front page of the Licensure & Credential website is essential. Please note that many candidates submit incomplete applications due to failure to read instructions. **Incomplete applications will delay the processing of your application.**

1) Do I have to hold an Elementary certificate first?

ANSWER: Yes. In order to be eligible for any Elementary with Subject Matter Specialization certificates, you need first to hold an Elementary N-8 or K-5 certificate. **Even if you do not plan on teaching grades K-5, you still need the Elementary K-5 certificate.** The Elementary with Subject Matter Specialization certificates may be seen as “add-on” endorsements to the Elementary K-5. They may not be held alone without the Elementary K-5 certificate.

2) I have an Elementary N-8 certificate. Do I need the Elementary Subject Matter Specialization endorsements in order to teach grades 5-8?

ANSWER: No. Holders of the “old” Elementary N-8 certificate are authorized to teach in grades N to 8. However, to meet Highly Qualified standards you will have to demonstrate that you have content area qualifications to teach in each assigned area of middle school. You do this in accordance with the appropriate identification form or the NJ HOUSE Standard matrix. For more details about becoming Highly Qualified please see <http://www.nj.gov/njded/profdev/hqt/faq.htm>. The Office of Licensure and Credentials does not advise on Highly Qualified issues. Also, please note that school districts hold the right to require the Elementary with Subject Matter Specialization endorsements for certain positions regardless of whether you have the Elementary N-8 or not.

3) I have an Elementary K-5 certificate. Do I need the Elementary

Subject Matter Specialization endorsements in order to teach grades 5-8?

ANSWER: Yes. Holders of the “new” (as of Jan. 20, 2004) Elementary K-5 certificate are authorized to teach the core curriculum content in grades K-5 only. In order to teach particular subjects in middle school (grades 5-8), you must apply and be eligible for the appropriate Elementary with Subject Matter Specialization endorsements.

4) What are the requirements?

ANSWER: The requirements for Elementary School Teacher with Subject Specialization: **Language Arts/Literacy** (5-8) are as follows:

a) Teacher of Elementary School K-5 certificate.

If you do not currently hold the Elementary N-8 or K-5 certificate, it will be necessary to apply for it and meet all requirements, including the Praxis II Elementary test, #10014 and at least 60 liberal arts credits. See details under Elementary School Teacher in Grades K – 5.

b) 15 semester hour credits in Language Arts/Literacy.

A minimum of 15 semester hour credits from a regionally accredited, four-year college or university must be evidenced on official transcripts.

c) Praxis II Middle School English Language Arts test, #10049.

Contact ETS to register for the appropriate test. Be sure to code your social security number and send your score to the NJ Department of Education.

d) Study in the Characteristics of Young Adolescents.

This study is covered in the Alternate Route training and not necessary to complete before receiving the CE. However, before a CEAS or standard certificate may be issued, completion of a course in Adolescent Psychology or its equivalent will be necessary. Those eligible for the CEAS or standard certificate without this study may opt to receive a CE and complete the study within 12 months of their initial assignment.

5) What do I need to submit in order to apply online for certification?

ANSWER: After submitting your application online, collect and submit *all* documents as listed:

- Certified Check/Money Order with correct fee payable to "Commissioner of Education" (if payment mode is not credit card). Please review the fee schedule on the Licensure & Credential front page or call the Office of Licensure & Credential at 609-292-2070.
- A Copy of your Confirmation page from the website.
- Official college transcript(s). Please contact each college/university attended and have them send **you** official transcripts in a sealed college/university envelope. Forward these transcripts in sealed envelopes with the rest of your application materials.
- Copy of first page of Praxis Score Report if you have taken a test.
- Signed and notarized [Oath of Allegiance/Verification of Accuracy Statement](#), which must be downloaded from our website. If you currently hold a NJ certificate, please be aware that you must submit this Verification form, however notarization of the Oath is not necessary. If you are not a citizen of the United States, then you must download the [Non-Citizen's Oath of Allegiance](#) and [Affidavit of Intent to Become a Citizen](#) forms.
- **If applicable:** [Verification of Program Completion](#), which must be downloaded from our website. Follow directions on the form. To be completed if you have finished an out-of-State collegiate teacher preparation program culminating in supervised student teaching.
- **If applicable:** Copy of all out-of-State certificates. Please be sure that dates of issuance match with dates of employment. A renewed certificate may not reflect the dates of your employment.
- **If applicable:** Letter from a current or former supervisor, on official stationery, as documentation of years of teaching experience. The letter ought to include the dates of employment, the specific positions held during those dates, and which out-of-State certificate the experience was conducted under.
- Assemble *all* application materials in the order listed above and place in a large envelope without folding unless absolutely necessary. Please do not use staples. **An incomplete packet will delay the processing of your application and will be held as incomplete.**

6) What kind of courses will count as Language Arts/Literacy?

ANSWER: Courses offered by the English department will be accepted. Courses offered outside of the English department that have to do with language arts and literacy will be considered. Courses offered by other departments will

come under review and it is suggested that you submit course descriptions with your application for courses in question. Courses in Communications and Theater will **not** be accepted.

7) What is the “study in the characteristics of young adolescents” requirement?

ANSWER: Currently, this requirement can be met by a course that clearly contains psychological study of adolescents. You may submit course descriptions for courses in question. A course in Adolescent Psychology will automatically be accepted. **Note:** Eventually, the NJ DOE will require a course in Adolescent Psychology as opposed to the current “study in”. The date of your application in relation to the date of regulation changes will determine which requirements need to be met.

8) What if I apply for the Certificate of Eligibility (CE; alternate route) *without* study in the characteristics of young adolescents?

ANSWER: The study of the characteristics of young adolescents will be contained in the provisional training program, so there is no need to have this study before receiving a Certificate of Eligibility (CE).

9) What if I apply for the Certificate of Eligibility with Advanced Standing (CEAS) *without* study in the characteristics of young adolescents?

ANSWER: If you meet all requirements for the endorsement except for the study in the characteristics of young adolescent, then you may request to have a Certificate of Eligibility (CE) issued by submitting a signed letter. Upon your teaching assignment, you will have 12 months to complete a course in Adolescent Psychology. When you have completed the course and one year of mentoring, then you will be eligible for the standard certificate. Submit an official transcript with your application for the standard certificate through your school district.

10) What if I apply for the standard certificate *without* study in the characteristics of young adolescents?

ANSWER: If you meet all requirements for the endorsement except for the study in the characteristics of young adolescent, then you may request to have a Certificate of Eligibility (CE) issued by submitting a signed letter. Upon your teaching assignment, you will have 12 months to complete a course in Adolescent Psychology. When you have completed the course, then you will be eligible for the standard certificate. Submit an official transcript with an application for the standard certificate to your examiner. No additional fee will apply.

11) I completed the Praxis II English Language test (#10041); can I use it?

ANSWER: Yes, if you have completed the Praxis II English Language, Literature, & Composition test (#110041), then you may use it in lieu of the Praxis II Middle School Language Arts/ Literacy test (#10439).